

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2000.10.02

DATE: Monday October 2, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place near the Oceanic Pier at Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA. 34.2°N, 77.8°W

NAME: Mark Taylor

DESCRIPTION: The surfer, a 24-year-old male, lives in Wilmington.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h53, Wilmington recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 60.1°F [15.6°C], dew point 59°F [15°C], humidity 96%, sea level pressure 29.94 in [1013.7 hPa], and wind direction was NW at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, October 4, 2000

SEA CONDITIONS: High tide was at 11h14, low tide was at 18h00.

ENVIRONMENT: Wrightsville Beach, a five-mile-long barrier island beach, is primarily an affluent residential community that has its roots in Wilmington.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Taylor was on his surfboard and paddling when the shark's head, which the surfer describes a nearly a foot-and-a-half in width, came up over his surfboard. The shark grabbed his arm and shook him twice, pulling him off his board. He remounted his board and paddled inshore where a group of girls helped him onto the beach.

INJURY: There was a 10-inch gash on the surfer's left forearm.

TREATMENT: The surfer was taken to Cape Fear Memorial Hospital, where doctors used 150 stitches to repair his injury.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCE: The State (Columbia), October 6, 2000, page A6

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF



